

Response Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
Serial No.: 10/772,469
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC Ref: Q79675

REMARKS

Claims 7-22 are all the claims pending in the application.

The Examiner continues to reject claims 7-22 under §103 as being obvious over Wayt et al. Applicant traverses this rejection.

Referring to paragraph number 3 of the Office Action, in response to Applicant's argument that that the arms 48 in combination with the inclined guide surface 78 of Wayt et al. do not generate a push-out force tending to separate the two connectors (and particularly does not disclose generating a push-out force that is greater than the contact resistance associated with the two connectors), the Examiner disagrees and cites to column 4, lines 15-21 of Wayt et al.

This portion of Wayt et al. states the following:

It may sometimes be desirable to disconnect the first and second electrical connectors 12, 14. If so, pulling the tab handle 46 upwardly away from the first electrical connector 12 engages the outward projections 70 with the lower ramps 78 of the locking detents 74 and moves the beams 48 toward each other. The deflection of the beams 48 permits the locking member 16 to be moved back the unlocked position.

However, a careful reading of this portion of Wayt et al. demonstrates that the Examiner's rejection is improper. Specifically, this recitation simply describes what happens when the two connectors are disconnected from each other. With reference to Fig. 8 of Wayt et al., when the handle is pulled upwardly, the lower ramps 78 cause the beams 48 to move toward each other so that the locking member 16 (which includes the beams) can be removed. This portion of Wayt et al. does not describe any push-out force analogous to that claimed in the subject application. In fact, if anything, the interaction of the lower ramps 78 and the beams 48 would create a force

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tending to bring the locking member 16 and the connector 14 together, quite the opposite of the claimed invention.

A further problem with the rejection is that the beams, which the Examiner analogizes to the claimed flexible arm, are not part of the first connector 16. Thus, the Examiner's assertion that Wayt et al. discloses "a first connector (16) including a pair of flexible arms (48) disposed thereon" is incorrect.

In short, the Examiner's rejection is entirely unsupported by the objective teachings of Wayt et al.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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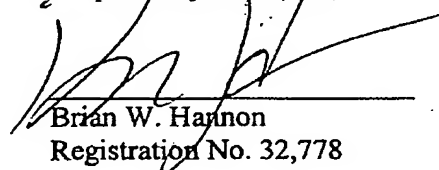
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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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Respectfully submitted,



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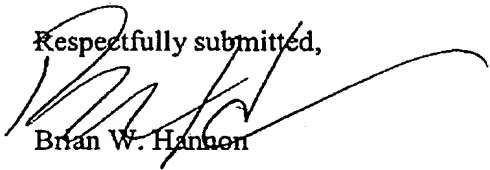
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CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

Sir:

I hereby certify that the above identified correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to Examiner Thanh Tam T. LE at the Patent and Trademark Office on September 23, 2005 at (571) 273-8300.

Respectfully submitted,


Brian W. Hannon